

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067) (P)

DATE: 3/6/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: INVADERS;
RM

On 2/13/69, [REDACTED] advised that in a recent talk with some of the Invaders including ROY LEE TURKS and MELVIN SMITH that he has learned that the Committee on the Move for Equality (COME) will promote the Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., memorial day on 4/4/69 to commemorate the anniversary date of Dr. KING's shooting in Memphis. He learned that one MICHAEL RONALD STARKS, nephew of Reverend HENRY LOGAN STARKS, apparently came to Memphis to help promote the day. He knows little about MICHAEL STARKS pointing out that he is not identical with MICHAEL JEROME STARKS, local Memphis Negro who is with the Invaders.

He pointed out that he has also learned that the man who runs the furniture store around 273 Vance and who owns that building rents space on the west end of the building to the Invaders, their office being located at 271 Vance.

- 1 - 157-1067
- 1 - 170-70-SUB [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1423 BU [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1675 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1626 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1553 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 105-166 NO [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1277 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1351 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1647 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1230 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-109 SNCC
- 1 - 157-1263 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1258 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 66-1687 SUB DISSEMINATION

WHL:PEH
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Lawrence

He also learned that one ALEX WILLIAMS whose daughter attends Carver High School and who runs the Williams Printing Company on Hernando Street, Memphis, was allegedly beaten up by the Invaders about three months ago, that he lost an eye or at least had a severe eye injury, that he was probably a patient at Baptist Hospital, that ARTHUR "Big Doc" NORWOOD was allegedly the Invader who inflicted the damage to his eye. The beating apparently took place at a night spot in South Memphis. The owner would not allow WILLIAMS after he was injured to use the telephone; he had to go to a phone on Kansas Street nearby and call an ambulance. He does not know the details of this matter.

They indicated that WILLIAMS was reluctant to swear out a warrant charging any of the Invaders with the physical assault of WILLIAMS.

Informant added that JOHN CHARLES SMITH is now out on bond as a result of his recent disorderly conduct arrest at Fourth and Beale; that QUANITA MILLER, aka Anita Miller; one of the Invaderettes who has a two-year old mute or deaf child, is now in love with JOHN CHARLES SMITH and she writes numerous love letters to him, some of which he openly displays. She is the person who raised his bond money. She indicated she is now being sent to school by the Welfare Department, that she is attending a trade school on North Cleveland located north of Madison Avenue, and that the school and welfare officials feel that she is psycho and want to send her to a psychiatrist.

Informant added that the Invaders apparently do not have much free money because ROY LEE TURKS, minister of information, is continually borrowing small amounts of money from people in that area of town.

Informant advised that when the Nation of Islam (NOI) held a meeting at Ellis Auditorium on the night of Saturday, 2/8/69, featuring the speaker as CASSIUS CLAY, former heavyweight boxing champion of the world now using the name Muslim name of Muhammad Ali, that Muhammad Ali "took the wind out of the sails" of the Invaders by emphasizing the fact that no black extremist group can hope to win in the United States because they would be so badly outnumbered. He likened the black militants to a brave bull but, nevertheless, a foolish bull who would be willing to charge a large

locomotive coming down the railroad track, pointing out that the bull would be completely disintegrated by the locomotive and that, in fact, this is what the black extremist groups are doing, namely, committing mass suicide if they try to take on all of society.

EWETT HOUSE is now back with the Invaders. He is not working. He loafs and hangs around the pool rooms and eating joints in the Beale Street area.

Informant pointed out that ROY LEE TURKS and possibly MAURICE LEWIS of the Invaders are scheduled to be on WDIA trial log either Sunday, 2/16 or 2/23/69. This program is moderated by ROBERT RICHARDS, a white male who is news editor of WDIA.

The main workers among the Invaders at the present time who seem to be running the organization now that LANCE WATSON is in the Shelby County Jail are MAURICE LEWIS, ROY LEE TURKS, LEWIS WELCH, MELVIN SMITH, and DONALD PIGFORD.

CACHEATUH SMITH, secretary of the Invaders, stated that PIGFORD was recently interviewed by Federal authorities in an effort to trace down a Post Office box currently being used by the Invaders. Apparently the box was in PIGFORD's name, according to SMITH.

Informant advised that a few days before JOHN BRITTON, managing editor of Jet magazine, a Johnson publication, headquarters at Chicago, Illinois, called MELVIN SMITH following the speech of Muhammad Ali and found out from MELVIN that only a very few persons attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by a large group of Invaders. SMITH told BRITTON that BOB GORE of the United Presbyterian Church, currently on loan to the National Council of Churches and who met with the Invaders during the NCC convention in Memphis during the week ending 1/25/69 is still trying to get money for the Invaders; that GORE had promised publicity in Jet magazine for the Invaders and financial help.

BRITTON indicated that GORE could not speak for Jet magazine. MELVIN then tried to dictate to BRITTON to have some of BRITTON's New York "Jet" representatives contact GORE and have GORE call MELVIN SMITH.

The Invaders are attempting to raise money by having 1000 eight inch by ten inch glossy photos of LANCE WATSON made up which they will then try to sell for \$1.00 or more each. To date, they have made a \$50 deposit on the photos which will cost approximately \$130. ROY LEE TURKS has indicated that the Invaders have good contacts in Atlanta and the only group which informant could think of would be the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

Informant pointed out that ROY LEE TURKS and possibly MAURICE LEWIS of the Invaders are scheduled to be on WDA radio for either Sunday, 2/15 or 2/23/69. This program is moderated by ROBERT RICHARDS, a white male who is news editor of WDA.

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